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Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets

Publication number:

**0 354 989
A1**

Ⓢ

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

Ⓢ Application number: 89111714.5

Ⓢ Date of filing: 27.06.89

Ⓢ Int. Cl.⁴ C12N 15/00 , C12P 21/02 ,
C12N 5/00 , C07K 15/00 ,
A61K 37/24 , A61K 39/395 ,
C12Q 1/68 , G01N 33/68

The title of the invention has been amended
(Guidelines for Examination in the EPO, A-III,
7.3).

Ⓢ Priority: 28.06.88 US 212623

Ⓢ Date of publication of application:
21.02.90 Bulletin 90/08

Ⓢ Designated Contracting States:
AT BE CH DE ES FR GB GR IT LI LU NL SE

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Ⓢ Megakaryocytopoietin, preparation and use.

Ⓢ Provided are novel polypeptide isolate, megakaryocytopoietin (MKP), together with DNA encoding MKP and recombinant methods for making MKP. Methods for the determination of MKP or its nucleic acid are useful for the diagnosis of certain rare leukemias. Megakaryocytopoietin is believed to have therapeutic utility in modulating the growth or development of blood cells and their progenitors.

EP 0 354 989 A1

Novel Nucleic Acids and Polypeptides Encoded Thereby

This application relates to growth factors. In particular, it relates to polypeptides which influence the replication or differentiation of blood cells, especially platelet progenitor cells.

In the bone marrow a pluripotent cell differentiates into megakaryocytic, erythrocytic, and myelocytic cell lines. There may be a line of committed cells between stem cells and megakaryocytes. The earliest recognizable member of the megakaryocyte (meg) series, the megakaryoblast, is initially 20 to 30 μ m in diameter with basophilic cytoplasm and a slightly irregular nucleus having loose, somewhat reticular chromatin and several nucleoli. Later megakaryoblasts may contain up to 32 nuclei, but the cytoplasm remains sparse and immature. As maturation proceeds, the nucleus becomes more lobulated and pyknotic; the cytoplasm increases in quantity and becomes more acidophilic and granular. The most mature cells may give the appearance of releasing platelets at their periphery. Normally, less than 10% of megakaryocytes are in the blast stage and more than 50% are mature. Arbitrary morphologic classifications commonly applied to the megakaryocyte series are megakaryoblast for the earliest form; promegakaryocyte or basophilic megakaryocyte for the intermediate form; and mature (acidophilic, granular, or platelet-producing) megakaryocyte for the late forms. The mature megakaryocyte extends filaments of cytoplasm into sinusoidal spaces where they detach and fragment into individual platelets (Williams et al., Hematology, 1972).

Evidence is accumulating that there is a dual level of regulation of megakaryocytopoiesis, involving more than one regulatory factor (Williams et al., Br. J. Haematol. 52:173 [1982] and Williams et al., J. Cell Physiol. 110:101 [1982]). The early level of megakaryocytopoiesis is postulated as being mitotic, concerned with cell proliferation and colony initiation from CFU-meg but is not affected by platelet count (Burstein et al., J. Cell Physiol. 109:333 [1981] and Kimura et al., Exp. Hematol. 13:1048 [1985]). The later stage of maturation is non-mitotic, involved with nuclear polyploidization and cytoplasmic maturation and is probably regulated in a feedback mechanism by peripheral platelet number (Odell et al., Blood 48:765 [1976] and Ebbe et al., Blood 32:787 [1968]). The existence of a distinct and specific megakaryocyte colony-stimulating factor (meg-CSF) is still in dispute (Mazur, E., Exp. Hematol. 15:340-350 [1987]). Although meg-CSF's have been partly purified from experimentally produced thrombocytopenia (Hill et al., Hematol. 14:752 [1986]) and human embryonic kidney conditioned medium [CM] (McDonald et al., J. Lab. Clin. Med. 85:59 [1975]) and in man from aplastic anemia and idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura urinary extracts (Kawakita et al., Blood 6:556 [1983]) and plasma (Hoffman et al., J. Clin. Invest. 75:1174 [1985]), their physiological function is as yet unknown in most cases. The conditioned medium of pokeweed mitogen-activated spleen cells (PWM-SpCM) and WEHI-3 (WEHI-3CM) have been used as megakaryocyte potentiators. PWM-SpCM contains factors enhancing CFU-meg growth (Metcalf et al., PNAS; USA 72:1744-1748 [1975]; Quesenberry et al., Blood 65:214 [1985]; and Iscove, N.N., in Hematopoietic Cell Differentiation, ICN-UCLA Symposia on Molecular and Cellular Biology, Vol. 10, Golde et al., eds. [New York, Academy Press] pp 37-52 [1978]), one of which is interleukin-3 (IL-3), a multilineage colony stimulating factor (multi-CSF [Burstein, S.A., Blood Cells 11:469 1986]). The other factors in this medium have not yet been identified and isolated. WEHI-3 is a murine myelomonocytic cell line secreting relatively large amounts of IL-3 and smaller amounts of GM-CSF. IL-3 has been recently purified and cloned (Ihle et al., J. Immunol. 129:2431 [1982]) and has been found to potentiate the growth of a wide range of hemopoietic cells (Ihle et al., J. Immunol. 13:282 [1983]). Besides this it can also synergize with many of the known hemopoietic hormones or growth factors (Bartelmez et al., J. Cell Physiol. 122:362-369 [1985] and Warren et al., Cell 46:667-674 [1988]). IL-3 has been found to synergize with both erythropoietin (EPO) and H-1 (later known as interleukin-1 or IL-1) in the induction of very early multipotential precursors and the formation of very large mixed hemopoietic colonies.

Other sources of megakaryocyte potentiators have been found in the conditioned media of murine lung, bone, macrophage cell lines, peritoneal exudate cells and human embryonic kidney cells. Despite certain conflicting data (Mazur, E., Exp. Hematol. 15:340-350 [1987]), there is some evidence (Geissler et al., Br. J. Haematol. 60:233-238 [1985]) that activated T lymphocytes rather than monocytes play an enhancing role in megakaryocytopoiesis. This may be suggestive of the idea that activated T-lymphocyte secretions such as interleukins may be regulatory factors in meg development (Geissler et al., Exp. Hematol. 15:845-853 [1987]). A number of studies on megakaryocytopoiesis with purified EPO (Vainchenker et al., Blood 54:940 [1979]; McLeod et al., Nature 261:492-4 [1976]; and Williams et al., Exp. Hematol. 12:734 [1984]) indicate that this hormone has an enhancing effect on meg colony formation. More recently this has been demonstrated in both serum-free and serum-containing cultures and in the absence of accessory cells (Williams et al., Exp. Hematol. 12:734 [1984]). EPO was postulated to be involved more in the single and two-cell stage aspects of megakaryocytopoiesis as opposed to the effect of PWM-SpCM which was

involved in the four-cell stage of megakaryocyte development. The interaction of all these factors on both early and late phases of megakaryocyte development remains to be elucidated.

Platelets are critical formed elements of the blood clotting mechanism. Depletion of the circulating level of platelets, called thrombocytopenia, occurs in various clinical conditions and disorders. Increased rates of platelet destruction characterize immunologic or nonimmunologic acquired thrombocytopenia such as that which is associated with infections, Moschcowitz' Syndrome, Gasser's Syndrome, direct or drug-induced platelet toxicity, post-transfusion purpura and allergic thrombocytopenia; idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura; and immunologic or nonimmunologic congenital thrombocytopenia such as erythroblastosis fetalis, prematurity thrombocytopenia, infectious thrombocytopenia, thrombocytopenia with giant cavernous hemangioma, drug sensitivity, isoimmune neonatal thrombocytopenia, and thrombocytopenia associated with maternal idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura. Diminished or defective platelet production characterizes Fanconi Syndrome, amegakaryocytic thrombocytopenia, hereditary thrombocytopenia, neonatal rubella, maternal ingestion of thiazide diuretics, aplastic anemia, malignant infiltration of marrow, and the administration of ionizing radiation and myelosuppressive drugs.

Thrombocytopenia is clinically dangerous, exposing patients with this condition to uncontrolled bleeding episodes. In the ordinary course of events, the time required for maturation of platelets from megakaryocytes after an insult is about 4 to 5 days in humans. It would be desirable to identify an agent capable of accelerating platelet development and shortening this period.

Considerable efforts have been expended on identifying such an agent, commonly referred to as thrombopoietin. The activity of such an agent has been observed as early as 1959 (Rak et al., "Med. Exp." 1:125) and attempts to characterize and purify this agent have continued up to the present day. Some have reported partial purification of thrombopoietin-active polypeptides (see, for example, Tayrien et al., "J. Biol. Chem." 262:3262, 1987; and Hoffman et al., "J. Clin. Invest." 75:1174, 1985) while others have postulated that thrombopoietin is not a discrete entity in its own right but rather is simply the polyfunctional manifestation of a known hormone (IL-3. Sparrow et al., "Prog. Clin. Biol. Res." 215 (Megakaryocyte Dev. Funct.):123, 1986).

Accordingly, it is an object of this invention to obtain a thrombopoietin-active polypeptide which is in a pharmaceutically pure form.

It is another object to provide nucleic acid encoding the polypeptide and to use this nucleic acid to produce the polypeptide in recombinant cell culture for diagnostic use or for therapeutic use in the treatment of thrombocytopenia.

It is still further an object to synthesize variants of the polypeptide, including amino acid sequence and covalent derivatives thereof.

Another object is to produce antibodies capable of binding to the polypeptide.

A still further object is to provide diagnostic methods for the determination of the polypeptide, or nucleic acid or its antibodies, in test samples which methods are useful in the detection and classification of leukemias.

These and other objects of the invention will be apparent to the ordinary artisan upon consideration of the specification as a whole.

Summary of the Invention

The accomplishment of these objectives is made possible by the identification of a gene encoding a thrombopoietin-active polypeptide (hereinafter, megakaryocytopoietin or "MKP"). A DNA sequence encoding a butyryl-cholinesterase derivative was fortuitously discovered during an investigation of multiple cDNA libraries from human fetal tissues with butyryl-cholinesterase cDNA probes. This derivative contained the first exon from the human butyryl-cholinesterase gene (250 nucleotides of the 5' region of the butyryl-cholinesterase coding sequence). However, the 3' end of this clone (hereinafter "clone 14") contained an open reading frame encoding a polypeptide other than the remainder of butyryl-cholinesterase. The DNA at the 3' end of the butyryl-cholinesterase derivative was further found to hybridize to genomic DNA fragments obtained in an acute myelocytic leukemia.

Nucleic acid comprising the clone 14 sequence is provided in order to prepare MKP by recombinant culture. Nucleic acid which is hybridizable to the clone 14 sequence under stringent conditions (but which may not encode the clone 14 polypeptide or any portion thereof) is used to probe for sources of DNA encoding related polypeptides or for tissues or cell lines which are transcribing this gene or for primer extension.

Also within the scope of this invention are therapeutic preparations of MKP obtained by conventional techniques from native or recombinant sources of MKP, antibodies against MKP and diagnostic methods for the determination of MKP, its nucleic acid or its antibodies.

5

Brief Summary of the Drawing

Figs. 1a - 1e depict the nucleotide and imputed amino acid sequences of clone 14. The upper
10 reading frame encoded by nucleotides 1 to 564 imputes a polypeptide found within full-length MKP, probably representing the C-terminus of MKP, and is referred to herein as the sequence or polypeptide of Fig. 1..

15

Detailed Description of the Invention

MKP is a hormonally-active polypeptide believed to have utility in the modulation of hematopoiesis and immune responses, and in diagnostic testing. MKP, its immunogens, its antibodies and nucleic acid which hybridizes to nucleic acid encoding MKP are diagnostically useful in the subclassification of rare leukemias.
20 MKP polypeptide is employed in standards for the detection of MKP expression by leukemias. Nucleic acid which is capable of hybridizing to MKP-encoding RNA finds utility in the detection of MKP gene amplification in those same leukemias. MKP immunogens are useful for the manufacture of antibodies to MKP, which in turn are useful in immunoassays for MKP as will be more fully described below.

The hematopoietic and immunomodulatory characteristics of MKP are resolved by conventional screening assays which measure the influence of MKP on the growth and/or differentiation of blood cells and their progenitors, including erythrocytes, megakaryocytes, stem cells, monocytes, lymphocytes and the like. Based on preliminary data, it is believed that MKP potentiates the development or differentiation of megakaryocytes and has utility in therapeutic conditions where such an activity is required. However, it will be understood that MKP is likely to be polyfunctional and the determination of other activities, and hence
30 uses, for MKP will be within the ordinary skill of the artisan.

MKP is defined as a polypeptide having the sequence set forth in the designated upper reading frame of Fig. 1 together with amino acid sequence variants thereof wherein one or more amino acid residues have been inserted, deleted or substituted and wherein the variants exhibit substantially the same qualitative biological activity as the polypeptide of Fig. 1 or its full-length, mature counterpart.

35 The biological activity of MKP is defined as the ability to modulate the growth or differentiation of blood cells or their progenitor cells, or the ability to cross-react with an antibody raised against the polypeptide of Fig. 1. Preferably, the biological activity of MKP is determined by the modified Iscove's method described in the example below, or by other conventional assays known to those in the field.

MKP variants will have sequences that ordinarily are greater than about 80 percent homologous with the designated sequence of Fig. 1, having aligned the sequences to achieve maximum homology and not considering as homologous any conservative substitutions. N- or C-terminal substitutions shall not be construed as reducing the homology of the variant to the Fig. 1 sequence. MKP variants exclude any polypeptide heretofore identified. Typical variants of the Fig. 1 sequence found in nature may include the full-length analogue of MKP, counterparts from animals such as porcine, non-human primate, equine,
45 murine and ovine, and alleles of the foregoing. Other amino acid sequence variants are predetermined and prepared by site-directed mutagenesis.

Amino acid sequence variants of MKP include predetermined deletions from, or insertions or substitutions of residues within the MKP sequence shown in Fig. 1 or its mature homologue. Amino acid sequence deletions generally range from about 1 to 10 residues and typically are contiguous. Contiguous deletions
50 ordinarily are made in even numbers of residues, but single or odd numbers of deletions are within the scope hereof.

Insertions also are preferably made in even numbers of residues although insertions may range from 1 to 5 residues in general. However, insertions also include fusions onto one or both of the amino or carboxyl termini of MKP, ranging in length from 1 residue to polypeptides containing one hundred or more residues.
55 An example of a single terminal insertion is mature MKP having an N-terminal methionyl. This variant is an artifact of the direct expression of MKP in recombinant cell culture, i.e., expression without a signal sequence to direct the secretion of mature MKP. Other examples of terminal insertions include 1) fusions of heterologous signal sequences to the N-terminus of mature MKP in order to facilitate the secretion of

mature MKP from recombinant hosts, 2) fusions of immunogenic polypeptides, e.g. bacterial polypeptides such as beta-lactamase or an enzyme encoded by the *E. coli* *trp* locus and 3) N-terminal fusions with cholinesterases or N-terminal fragments of cholinesterases, especially butyryl-cholinesterase. The antibody and MKP are covalently bonded, for example, by the method of EP 170,697A, although other methods for linking proteins are conventional and known to the artisan. Immunogenic fusions are useful for preparing immunogenic MKPs suitable as vaccines for preparing anti-MKP antibodies.

The third group of variants are those in which at least one residue in the MKP molecule has been removed and a different residue inserted in its place. Such substitutions generally are made in accordance with following Table.

Table 1

Original Residue	Exemplary Substitutions
Ala	gly; ser
Arg	lys
Asn	gln; his
Asp	glu
Cys	ser
Gln	asn
Glu	asp
Gly	ala
His	asn; gln
Ile	leu; val
Leu	ile; val
Lys	arg; gln; glu
Met	met; leu; tyr
Ser	thr
Thr	ser
Trp	tyr
Tyr	trp; phe
Val	ile; leu

Substantial changes in function or immunological identity are made by selecting substitutions that are less conservative than those in Table 1, i.e., selecting residues that differ more significantly in their effect on maintaining (a) the structure of the polypeptide backbone in the area of the substitution, for example as a sheet of helical conformation, (b) the charge or hydrophobicity of the molecule at the target site or (c) the bulk of the side chain. The substitutions in general expected to produce the greatest changes in MKP properties will be those in which (a) a hydrophilic residue, e.g. seryl or threonyl, is substituted for (or by) a hydrophobic residue, e.g. leucyl, isoleucyl, phenylalanyl, valyl, or alanyl; (b) a cysteine or proline is substituted for (or by) any other residue; (c) a residue having an electropositive side chain, e.g., lysyl, arginyl, or histidyl, is substituted for (or by) an electronegative residue, e.g., glutamyl or aspartyl; or (d) a residue having a bulky side chain, e.g., phenylalanine, is substituted for (or by) one not having such a side chain, e.g. glycine.

MKP nucleic acid is defined as RNA or DNA which encodes MKP or which hybridizes to such DNA and remains stably bound to it under stringent conditions and is greater than about 10 bases in length. Stringent conditions are defined as low ionic strength and high temperature for washing, for example, 0.15 M NaCl/0.015 M Sodium citrate/0.1% NaDodSo₄ at 50° C, or alternatively the presence of denaturing agents such as formamide, for example, 50% (vol/vol) formamide with 0.1% bovine serum albumin/0.1% Ficoll/0.1% polyvinylpyrrolidone/50 mM sodium phosphate buffer at pH 6.5 with 750 mM NaCl, 75 mM sodium citrate and 42° C for hybridization. DNA encoding MKP is obtained from fetal tissue cDNA libraries, ordinarily liver or dissected brain regions, from cDNAs or genomic DNA of AML leukemic cells, or by in vitro synthesis. Hybridizing nucleic acid generally is obtained by in vitro synthesis. The original discovery of a DNA sequence for MKP was fortuitous, but it will be understood that one skilled in the art would be able to readily obtain MKP-encoding nucleic acid having been supplied with the nucleotide sequence encoding MKP. This most conveniently is accomplished by probing human cDNA or genomic libraries by labelled

oligonucleotide sequences selected from Fig. 1 in accord with known criteria, among which is that the sequence should be of sufficient length and sufficiently unambiguous that false positives are minimized. Typically, a P32 labelled oligonucleotide having about 30 to 50 bases is sufficient, particularly if the oligonucleotide contains one or more codons for methionine or tryptophane.

5 Of particular interest is MKP nucleic acid that encodes the full length molecule, including but not necessarily its native signal sequence. This is obtained by screening cDNA or genomic libraries using the full length clone depicted in Fig. 1 and, if necessary, using conventional primer extension procedures in order to secure DNA which is complete at its 5' coding end. Such a clone is readily identified by the presence of a start codon in reading frame with the Fig. 1 sequence. The full length clone most likely also
10 will encode a signal sequence of about 15 to 25 largely hydrophobic residues immediately following the start codon. The full length clone then is transfected into a mammalian host cell under the control of appropriate expression control sequences, whereupon the precursor will be processed and secreted as mature full length MKP. The N-terminus of this molecule is determined by conventional Edman degradation or the like to elucidate the mature amino terminus. This, together with an analysis of the C-terminal end of
15 the native signal sequence, guides the selection of the proper N-terminal site for constructing heterologous signal sequence fusions usable, for example, in microbial host-vector systems.

The MKP-encoding nucleic acid is then ligated into a replicable vector for further cloning or for expression. Vectors are useful for performing two functions in collaboration with compatible host cells (a host-vector system). One function is to facilitate the cloning of the nucleic acid that encodes the MKP, i.e.,
20 to produce usable quantities of the nucleic acid. The other function is to direct the expression of MKP. One or both of these functions are performed by the vector-host system. The vectors will contain different components depending upon the function they are to perform as well as the host cell that is selected for cloning or expression.

Each vector will contain nucleic acid that encodes MKP as described above. Typically, this will be DNA
25 that encodes the MKP in its mature form linked at its amino terminus to a secretion signal. This secretion signal preferably is the MKP presequence that normally directs the secretion of MKP from human cells *in vivo*. However, suitable secretion signals also include signals from other animal MKP, viral signals or signals from secreted polypeptides of the same or related species.

Expression and cloning vectors contain a nucleic acid sequence that enables the vector to replicate in
30 one or more selected host cells. Generally, in cloning vectors this sequence is one that enables the vector to replicate independently of the host chromosomes, and includes origins of replication or autonomously replicating sequences. Such sequences are well-known for a variety of bacteria, yeast and viruses. The origin of replication from the well-known plasmid pBR322 is suitable for most gram negative bacteria, the 2μ plasmid origin for yeast and various viral origins (SV40, polyoma, adenovirus, VSV or BPV) are useful
35 for cloning vectors in mammalian cells. Origins are not needed for mammalian expression vectors (the SV40 origin is used in the Examples only because it contains the early promoter). Most expression vectors are "shuttle" vectors, i.e. they are capable of replication in at least one class of organisms but can be transfected into another organism for expression. For example, a vector is cloned in *E. coli* and then the same vector is transfected into yeast or mammalian cells for expression even though it is not capable of
40 replicating independently of the host cell chromosome.

DNA also is cloned by insertion into the host genome. This is readily accomplished with bacillus species, for example, by including in the vector a DNA sequence that is complementary to a sequence found in bacillus genomic DNA. Transfection of bacillus with this vector results in homologous recombination with the genome and insertion of MKP DNA. However, the recovery of genomic DNA encoding
45 MKP is more complex than that of an exogenously replicated vector because restriction enzyme digestion is required to excise the MKP DNA.

Expression and cloning vectors should contain a selection gene, also termed a selectable marker. This is a gene that encodes a protein necessary for the survival or growth of a host cell transformed with the vector. The presence of this gene ensures that any host cell which deletes the vector will not obtain an
50 advantage in growth or reproduction over transformed hosts. Typical selection genes encode proteins that (a) confer resistance to antibiotics or other toxins, e.g. ampicillin, neomycin, methotrexate or tetracycline, (b) complement auxotrophic deficiencies, or (c) supply critical nutrients not available from complex media, e.g. the gene encoding D-alanine racemase for bacilli.

A suitable selection gene for use in yeast is the *trp1* gene present in the yeast plasmid YRp7
55 (Stinchcomb et al., 1979, "Nature" 282:39; Kingsman et al., 1979, "Gene" 7:141; or Tschemper et al., 1980, "Gene" 10:157). The *trp1* gene provides a selection marker for a mutant strain of yeast lacking the ability to grow in tryptophan, for example ATCC No. 44076 or PEP4-1 (Jones, 1977, "Genetics" 85:12). The presence of the *trp1* lesion in the yeast host cell genome then provides an effective environment for

detecting transformation by growth in the absence of tryptophan. Similarly, Leu2 deficient yeast strains (ATCC 20.622 or 38,626) are complemented by known plasmids bearing the Leu2 gene.

Examples of suitable selectable markers for mammalian cells are dihydrofolate reductase (DHFR) or thymidine kinase. Such markers enable the identification of cells which were competent to take up the MKP nucleic acid. The mammalian Cell transformants are placed under selection pressure which only the transformants are uniquely adapted to survive by virtue of having taken up the marker. Selection pressure is imposed by culturing the transformants under conditions in which the concentration of selection agent in the medium is successively changed, thereby leading to amplification of both the selection gene and the DNA that encodes MKP. Amplification is the process by which genes in greater demand for the production of a protein critical for growth are reiterated in tandem within the chromosomes of successive generations of recombinant cells. Increased quantities of MKP are synthesized from the amplified DNA.

For example, cells transformed with the DHFR selection gene are first identified by culturing all of the transformants in a culture medium which lacks hypoxanthine, glycine, and thymidine. An appropriate host cell in this case is the Chinese hamster ovary (CHO) cell line deficient in DHFR activity, prepared and propagated as described by Urlaub and Chasin, 1980, "Proc. Nat'l. Acad. Sci. USA" 77:4216. A particularly useful DHFR is a mutant DHFR that is highly resistant to MTX (EP 117,060A). This selection agent can be used with any otherwise suitable host, e.g. ATCC No. CCL61 CHO-K1, notwithstanding the presence of endogenous DHFR. The DHFR and MKP-encoding DNA then is amplified by exposure to an agent (methotrexate, or MTX) that inactivates the DHFR. One ensures that the cell requires more DHFR (and consequently amplifies all exogenous DNA) by selecting only for cells that can grow in successive rounds of ever-greater MTX concentration.

Other methods, vectors and host cells suitable for adaptation to the synthesis of the hybrid receptor in recombinant vertebrate cell culture are described in M.J. Gething et al., "Nature" 293:620-625 (1981); N. Mantel et al., "Nature" 281:40-46 (1979); and A. Levinson et al., EP 117,060A and 117,058A. A particularly useful starting plasmid for mammalian cell culture expression of MKP is pE342.HBV E400.D22 (also called pE348HBVE400D22, EP 117,058A).

Expression vectors, unlike cloning vectors, should contain a promoter which is recognized by the host organism and is operably linked to the MKP nucleic acid. Promoters are untranslated sequences located upstream from the start codon of a structural gene (generally within about 100 to 1000 bp) that control the transcription and translation of nucleic acid under their control. They typically fall into two classes, inducible and constitutive. Inducible promoters are promoters that initiate increased levels of transcription from DNA under their control in response to some change in culture conditions, e.g. the presence or absence of a nutrient or a change in temperature. At this time a large number of promoters recognized by a variety of potential host cells are well known. These promoters are operably linked to MKP-encoding DNA by removing them from their gene of origin by restriction enzyme digestion, followed by insertion 5' to the start codon for MKP. This is not to say that the genomic MKP promoter is not usable. However, heterologous promoters generally will result in greater transcription and higher yields of expressed MKP.

Nucleic acid is operably linked when it is placed into a functional relationship with another nucleic acid sequence. For example, DNA for a presequence or secretory leader is operably linked to DNA for a polypeptide if it is expressed as a preprotein which participates in the secretion of the polypeptide; a promoter or enhancer is operably linked to a coding sequence if it affects the transcription of the sequence; or a ribosome binding site is operably linked to a coding sequence if it is positioned so as to facilitate translation. Generally, operably linked means that the DNA sequences being linked are contiguous and, in the case of a secretory leader, contiguous and in reading phase. Linking is accomplished by ligation at convenient restriction sites. If such sites do not exist then synthetic oligonucleotide adaptors or linkers are used in accord with conventional practice.

Promoters suitable for use with prokaryotic hosts include the β -lactamase and lactose promoter systems (Chang et al., 1978, "Nature" 275:615; and Goeddel et al., 1979, "Nature" 281:544), alkaline phosphatase, a tryptophan (trp) promoter system (Goeddel, 1980, "Nucleic Acids Res." 8:4057 and EPO Appln. Publ. No. 36,776) and hybrid promoters such as the tac promoter (H. de Boer et al., 1983, "Proc. Nat'l. Acad. Sci. USA" 80:21-25). However, other known bacterial promoters are suitable. Their nucleotide sequences have been published, thereby enabling a skilled worker operably to ligate them to DNA encoding MKP (Siebenlist et al., 1980, "Cell" 20:269) using linkers or adaptors to supply any required restriction sites. Promoters for use in bacterial systems also will contain a Shine-Dalgarno (S.D.) sequence operably linked to the DNA encoding MKP.

Suitable promoting sequences for use with yeast hosts include the promoters for 3-phosphoglycerate kinase (Hitzeman et al., 1980, "J. Biol. Chem." 255:2073) or other glycolytic enzymes (Hess et al., 1968, "J. Adv. Enzyme Reg." 7:149; and Holland, 1978, "Biochemistry" 17:4900), such as enolase, glyceraldehyde-3-

phosphate dehydrogenase, hexokinase, pyruvate decarboxylase, phosphofructokinase, glucose-6-phosphate isomerase, 3-phosphoglycerate mutase, pyruvate kinase, triosephosphate isomerase, phosphoglucose isomerase, and glucokinase.

Other yeast promoters, which are inducible promoters having the additional advantage of transcription controlled by growth conditions, are the promoter regions for alcohol dehydrogenase 2, isocytochrome C, acid phosphatase, degradative enzymes associated with nitrogen metabolism, metallothionein, glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase, and enzymes responsible for maltose and galactose utilization. Suitable vectors and promoters for use in yeast expression are further described in R. Hitzeman et al., EP 73,657A. Yeast enhancers also are advantageously used with yeast promoters.

MKP transcription from vectors in mammalian host cells is controlled by promoters obtained from the genomes of viruses such as polyoma, cytomegalovirus, adenovirus, retroviruses, hepatitis-B virus and most preferably Simian Virus 40 (SV40), or from heterologous mammalian promoters, e.g. the actin promoter. The early and late promoters of the SV40 virus are conveniently obtained as an SV40 restriction fragment which also contains the SV40 viral origin of replication (Fiers et al., 1978, "Nature" 273:113). Of course, promoters from the host cell or related species also are useful herein.

Transcription of MKP-encoding DNA by higher eukaryotes is increased by inserting an enhancer sequence into the vector. An enhancer is a nucleotide sequence, usually about from 10-300 bp, that acts on a promoter to increase its transcription and does so in a manner that is relatively orientation and position independent. Many enhancer sequences are now known from mammalian genes (globin, elastase, albumin, α -fetoprotein and insulin). Typically, however, one will use an enhancer from a eukaryotic cell virus. Examples include the SV40 enhancer on the late side of the replication origin (bp 100-270), the cytomegalovirus early promoter enhancer, the polyoma enhancer on the late side of the replication origin, and adenoviral enhancers. The enhancer may be spliced into the vector at a position 5' or 3' to the MKP-encoding sequence, but is preferably located at a site 5' from the promoter.

Expression vectors used in eukaryotic host cells (yeast, fungi, insect, plant, animal, human or nucleated cells from other multicellular organisms) will also contain sequences necessary for the termination of transcription and for stabilizing the mRNA. Such sequences are commonly available from the 5' and, occasionally 3' untranslated regions of eukaryotic or viral DNAs or cDNAs. These regions contain regions that are transcribed as polyadenylated segments in the untranslated portion of the mRNA encoding MKP. The 3' untranslated regions also include transcription termination sites.

Suitable host cells for cloning or expressing the vectors herein are the prokaryote, yeast or higher eukaryote cells described above. Suitable prokaryotes include gram negative or gram positive organisms, for example E. coli or bacilli. A preferred cloning host is E. coli 294 (ATCC 31,446) although other gram negative or gram positive prokaryotes such as E. coli B, E. coli X1776 (ATCC 31,537), E. coli W3110 (ATCC 27,325), pseudomonas species, or Serratia Marcesans are suitable.

In addition to prokaryotes, eukaryotic microbes such as filamentous fungi or yeast are suitable hosts for MKP-encoding vectors. Saccharomyces cerevisiae, or common baker's yeast, is the most commonly used among lower eukaryotic host microorganisms. However, a number of other genera, species and strains are commonly available and useful herein.

Suitable host cells for the expression of MKP are derived from multicellular organisms. Such host cells are capable of complex processing and glycosylation activities. In principle, any higher eukaryotic cell culture is workable, whether from vertebrate or invertebrate culture, although cells from mammals such as humans are preferred. Propagation of such cells in culture is per se well known. See Tissue Culture, Academic Press, Kruse and Patterson, editors (1973). Examples of useful mammalian host cell lines are VERO and HeLa cells, Chinese hamster ovary cell lines, the WI38, BHK, COS-7, MDCK cell lines and human embryonic kidney cell line 293.

Host cells are transformed with the above-described expression or cloning vectors and cultured in conventional nutrient media modified as is appropriate for inducing promoters or selecting transformants containing amplified genes. The culture conditions, such as temperature, pH and the like, suitably are those previously used with the host cell selected for cloning or expression, as the case may be, and will be apparent to the ordinary artisan.

MKP preferably is recovered from the culture medium as a secreted protein, although it also may be recovered from host cell lysates when directly expressed without a secretory signal. As a first step, the culture medium or lysate is centrifuged to remove particulate cell debris. MKP also is purified from contaminant soluble proteins for example by fractionation on immunoaffinity or ion exchange columns. Such processes as chromatography on alkyl Sepharose, silica or an anion or cation exchange resin or gel electrophoresis are used to separate the MKP from contaminants. MKP variants in which residues have been deleted, inserted or substituted are recovered in the same fashion as native MKP, taking account of

any substantial changes in properties occasioned by the variation. For example, preparation of an MKP fusion with another protein, e.g. bacterial antigens, facilitates purification because an immunoaffinity column containing antibody to the antigen can be used to adsorb the fusion. A protease inhibitor such as PMSF also may be useful to inhibit proteolytic degradation during purification, and antibiotics may be included to prevent the growth of adventitious contaminants. One skilled in the art will appreciate that purification methods suitable for native MKP may require modification to account for changes in the character of MKP or its variants upon expression in recombinant cell culture.

Therapeutic formulations of MKP are prepared for storage by mixing MKP having the desired degree of purity with optional physiologically acceptable carriers, excipients or stabilizers in the form of lyophilized cake or aqueous solutions. Acceptable carriers, excipients or stabilizers are nontoxic to recipients at the dosages and concentrations employed, and include buffers such as phosphate citrate and other organic acids; antioxidants including ascorbic acid; low molecular weight (less than about 10 residues) polypeptides; proteins, such as serum albumin, gelatin or immunoglobulins; hydrophilic polymers such as polyvinylpyrrolidone amino acids such as glycine, glutamic acid or aspartic acid; monosaccharides, disaccharides and other carbohydrates including glucose, mannose, or dextrans; chelating agents such as EDTA; sugar alcohols such as mannitol or sorbitol; salt-forming counterions such as sodium, and/or nonionic surfactants such as Tween, Pluronic or PEG. MKP to be used for therapeutic administration must be sterile. This is readily accomplished by filtration through sterile filtration membranes, prior to or following lyophilization. MKP ordinarily will be stored in lyophilized form. The pH of the MKP preparations typically will be about from 6 to 8.

Therapeutic MKP compositions generally are placed into a container having a sterile access port, for example, an intravenous solution bag or vial having a stopper pierceable by a hypodermic injection needle.

MKP optionally is combined with or administered in concert with other thrombo- or erythro-potentiating agents including interleukin-3, erythropoietin or activin, and is used with other conventional therapies for thrombocytopenia.

Antibodies to MKP are used with other conventional therapies for thrombocytopenia, where they block the abnormally high megakaryocytopoiesis rates characterizing this type of syndrome.

MKP preparations typically are administered to animals exhibiting thrombocytopenia. The route of administration is in accord with known methods, e.g. intravenous, intraperitoneal, intramuscular, intralesional infusion or injection, or by sustained release systems as noted below. MKP is administered continuously by infusion, although bolus injection is acceptable.

Suitable examples of sustained release preparations include semipermeable polymer matrices in the form of shaped articles, e. g. films, or microcapsules. Sustained release matrices include polylactides (U.S. Patent 3,773,919, EP 58,481), copolymers of L-glutamic acid and gamma ethyl-L-glutamate (U. Sidman et al., 1983, "Biopolymers" 22 (1): 547-556), poly (2-hydroxyethyl-methacrylate) (R. Langer, et al., 1981, "J. Biomed. Mater. Res." 15: 167-277 and R. Langer, 1982, Chem. Tech." 12: 98-105), ethylene vinyl acetate (R. Langer et al., Id.) or poly-D-(-)-3-Hydroxybutyric acid (EP 133,988A). Sustained release MKP compositions also include liposomally entrapped MKP. Liposomes containing MKP are prepared by methods known per se: DE 3,218,121A; Epstein et al., 1985 "Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA" 82: 3688-3692; Hwang et al., 1980, "Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA" 77: 4030-4034; EP 52322A; EP 36676A; EP 88046A; EP 143949A; EP 142641A; Japanese patent application 83-118008; U.S. patents 4,485,045 and 4,544,545; and EP 102,324A. Ordinarily the liposomes are of the small (about 200-800 Angstroms) unilamellar type in which the lipid content is greater than about 30 mol. % cholesterol, the selected proportion being adjusted for the optimal MKP therapy.

The amount of MKP to be employed therapeutically will depend, for example, upon the therapeutic objectives, the route of administration, and the condition of the patient. Accordingly, it will be necessary for the therapist to titer the dosage and modify the route of administration as required to obtain the optimal therapeutic effect. Typically, the clinician will administer MKP until a dosage is reached that reestablishes a normal platelet level of about $250 \pm 50 \times 10^3/\mu\text{l}$ of blood. The progress of this therapy is easily monitored by conventional hematology assays or laboratory cell counts. Suitable starting therapeutic doses can be extrapolated from the *in vitro* efficacy studies described above.

Suitable diagnostic assays for MKP and its antibodies are well known per se. In addition to the bioassay described below, one may employ competitive, sandwich and steric inhibition immunoassay techniques. The competitive and sandwich methods employ a phase separation step as an integral part of the method while steric inhibition assays are conducted in a single reaction mixture. Fundamentally, the same procedures are used for the assay of MKP and for substances that bind MKP, although certain methods will be favored depending upon the molecular weight of the substance being assayed. Therefore, the substance to be tested is referred to herein as an analyte, irrespective of its status otherwise as an antigen or

antibody, and proteins which bind to the analyte are denominated binding partners, whether they be antibodies, cell surface receptors or antigens.

Analytical methods for MKP or its antibodies all use one or more of the following reagents: labelled analyte analogue, immobilized analyte analogue, labelled binding partner, immobilized binding partner and steric conjugates. The labelled reagents also are known as "tracers".

The label used is any detectable functionality which does not interfere with the binding of analyte and its binding partner. Numerous labels are known for use in immunoassay, examples including enzymes such as horseradish peroxidase, radioisotopes such as ^{14}C and ^{131}I , fluorophores such as rare earth chelates or fluorescein, stable free radicals and the like. Conventional methods are available to covalently bind these labels to proteins or polypeptides. Such bonding methods are suitable for use with MKP or its antibodies, all of which are proteinaceous.

Immobilization of reagents is required for certain assay methods. Immobilization entails separating the binding partner from any analyte which remains free in solution. This conventionally is accomplished by either insolubilizing the binding partner or analyte analogue before the assay procedure, as by adsorption to a water insoluble matrix or surface (Bennich et al., U.S. 3,720,760), by covalent coupling (for example using glutaraldehyde cross-linking), or by insolubilizing the partner or analogue afterward, e.g., by immunoprecipitation.

Other assay methods, known as competitive or sandwich assays, are well established and widely used in the commercial diagnostics industry.

Competitive assays rely on the ability of a labelled analogue (the "tracer") to compete with the test sample analyte for a limited number of binding sites on a common binding partner. The binding partner generally is insolubilized before or after the competition and then the tracer and analyte bound to the binding partner are separated from the unbound tracer and analyte. This separation is accomplished by decanting (where the binding partner was preinsolubilized) or by centrifuging (where the binding partner was precipitated after the competitive reaction). The amount of test sample analyte is inversely proportional to the amount of bound tracer as measured by the amount of marker substance. Dose-response curves with known amounts of analyte are prepared and compared with the test results in order to quantitatively determine the amount of analyte present in the test sample. These assays are called ELISA systems when enzymes are used as the detectable markers.

Another species of competitive assay, called a "homogeneous" assay, does not require a phase separation. Here, a conjugate of an enzyme with the analyte is prepared and used such that when anti-analyte binds to the analyte the presence of the anti-analyte modifies the enzyme activity. In this case, MKP or its immunologically active fragments are conjugated with a bifunctional organic bridge to an enzyme such as peroxidase. Conjugates are selected for use with anti-MKP so that binding of the anti-MKP inhibits or potentiates the enzyme activity of the label. This method per se is widely practiced under the name of EMIT.

Steric conjugates are used in steric hinderance methods for homogeneous assay. These conjugates are synthesized by covalently linking a low molecular weight hapten to a small analyte so that antibody to hapten substantially is unable to bind the conjugate at the same time as anti-analyte. Under this assay procedure the analyte present in the test sample will bind anti-analyte, thereby allowing anti-hapten to bind the conjugate resulting in a change in the character of the conjugate hapten, e.g., a change in fluorescence when the hapten is a fluorophore. Due to the large molecular weight of MKP, homogeneous or steric hinderance methods are not preferred for the determination of MKP.

Sandwich assays particularly are useful for the determination of MKP or MKP antibodies. In sequential sandwich assays an immobilized binding partner is used to adsorb test sample analyte, the test sample is removed as by washing, the bound analyte is used to adsorb labelled binding partner and bound material then separated from residual tracer. The amount of bound tracer is directly proportional to test sample analyte. In "simultaneous" sandwich assays the test sample is not separated before adding the labelled binding partner. A sequential sandwich assay using an anti-MKP monoclonal antibody as one antibody and a polyclonal anti-MKP antibody as the other is useful in testing samples for MKP activity.

The foregoing are merely exemplary diagnostic assays for MKP and antibodies. Other methods now or hereafter developed for the determination of these analytes are included within the scope hereof, including the bioassay described *infra*.

Covalent modifications of the MKP molecule are included within the scope hereof. Such modifications are introduced into the molecule by reacting targeted amino acid residues of the purified or crude protein with an organic derivatizing agent that is capable of reacting with selected side chains or terminal residues. The resulting covalent derivatives are useful as immunogens or in programs directed at identifying residues important for biological activity.

Cysteinyl residues most commonly are reacted with α -haloacetates (and corresponding amines), such as chloroacetic acid or chloroacetamide to give, carboxymethyl or carboxamidomethyl derivatives. Cysteinyl residues also are derivatized by reaction with bromotrifluoroacetone, α -bromo- β -(5-imidozoyl) propionic acid chloroacetol phosphate, N-alkylmaleimides, 3-nitro-2-pyridyl disulfide, methyl 2-pyridyl disulfide, p-chloromercuribenzoate 2-chloromercuri-4-nitrophenol or chloro-7-nitrobenzo-2-oxa-1, 3-diazole.

Histidyl residues are derivatized by reaction with diethylpyrocarbonate at pH 5.5 to 7.0; this agent is relatively specific for the histidyl side chain. Parabromophenacyl bromide also is useful; the reaction should be performed in 0.1M sodium cacodylate at pH 6.0.

Lysinyl and amino terminal residues are reacted with succinic or other carboxylic acid anhydrides. Derivatization with these agents has the effect of reversing the charge of the lysinyl residues. Other suitable reagents for derivatizing α amino-containing residues include imidoesters such as methyl picolinimide; pyridoxal phosphate; pyridoxal; chloroborohydride; trinitrobenzenesulfonic acid; O-methylisourea; 2,4-pentanedione; and transaminase-catalyzed reaction with glyoxylate.

Arginyl residues are modified by reaction with one of several conventional reagents, among them phenylglyoxal, 2,3-butanedione, 1,2-cyclohexanedione, and ninhydrin. Derivatization of arginine residues requires that the reaction be performed in alkaline conditions because of the high pKa of the guanidine functional group. Furthermore, these reagents may react with the groups of lysine as well as the arginine ϵ -amino group.

The specific modification of tyrosyl residues per se has been extensively studied, with particular interest in introducing spectral labels into tyrosyl residues by reaction with aromatic diazonium compounds or tetranitromethane. Most commonly, N-acetylimidazol and tetranitromethane are used to form O-acetyl tyrosyl species and 3-nitro derivatives, respectively. Tyrosyl residues are iodinated using ^{125}I or ^{131}I to prepare labelled proteins for use in radioimmunoassay, the chloramine T method described above being suitable.

Carboxyl side groups (aspartyl or glutamyl) are selectively modified by reaction with carbodiimides ($\text{R}'\text{-N-C-N-R}'$) such as 1-cyclohexyl-3-(2-morpholinyl-4-ethyl) carbodiimide or 1-ethyl-3-(4-azonia-4,4-dimethylpentyl)-carbodiimide. Furthermore, aspartyl and glutamyl residues are converted to asparaginy and glutaminy residues by reaction with ammonium ions.

Derivatization with bifunctional agents is useful for preparing intermolecular aggregates of the protein with immunogenic polypeptides as well as for cross-linking the protein to a water insoluble support matrix or surface for use in the assay or affinity purification of MKP antibody. Commonly used cross-linking agents include 1,1-bis(diazoacetyl)-2-phenylethane, glutaraldehyde, N-hydroxysuccinimide esters, for example esters with 4-azidosalicylic acid, homobifunctional imidoesters including disuccinimidyl esters such as 3,3'-dithiobis (succinimidylpropionate) and bifunctional maleimides such as bis-N-maleimido-1,8-octane. Derivatizing agents such as methyl-3-[(p-azidophenyl)dithio] propionimide yield photactivatable intermediates which are capable of forming cross-links in the presence of light. Alternatively, reactive water insoluble matrices such as cyanogen bromide activated carbohydrates and the reactive substrates described in U.S. patents 3,969,287; 3,691,016; 4,195,129; 4,247,642; 4,229,537 and 4,330,440 are employed for protein immobilization.

Glutaminy and asparaginy residues are frequently deamidated to the corresponding glutamyl and aspartyl residues. Alternatively, these residues are deamidated under mildly acidic conditions. Either form of these residues falls within the scope of MKP.

Other modifications include hydroxylation of proline and lysine, phosphorylation of hydroxyl groups of seryl or threonyl residues, methylation of the α -amino groups of lysine, arginine, and histidine side chains (T.E. Creighton, Proteins: Structure and Molecular Properties, W.H. Freeman & Co., San Francisco pp 79-86 [1983]), acetylation of the N-terminal amine and, in some instances, amidation of the C-terminal carboxyl.

Antibodies to MKP generally are raised in animals by multiple sc or ip injections of MKP and an adjuvant such as Freund's adjuvant and/or tumor necrosis factor. It may be useful to conjugate the MKP to a protein which is immunogenic in the species to be immunized, e.g., keyhole limpet hemocyanin, serum albumin, bovine thyroglobulin, or soybean trypsin inhibitor using a bifunctional or derivatizing agent, for example maleimidobenzoyl sulfosuccinimide ester (conjugation through cysteine residues), N-hydroxysuccinimide (through lysine residues), glutaraldehyde, succinic anhydride, SOCl_2 or $\text{R}'\text{N} - \text{C} - \text{NR}$. Also, aggregating agents such as alum may be used to enhance the immune response.

Animals, ordinarily rabbits or mice, are immunized against the immunogenic conjugates or derivatives, preferably a glutaraldehyde or succinic anhydride conjugate to soybean trypsin inhibitor, by combining 1 mg or 1 μg of conjugate (for rabbits or mice, respectively) with 3 volumes of Freund's complete adjuvant and injecting the solution intradermally at multiple sites with human $\text{TNF-}\alpha$ at $\mu\text{g/Kg}$. One month later the animals are boosted with 1/5 to 1/10 the original amount of conjugate in Freund's complete adjuvant by subcutaneous injection at multiple sites. 7 to 14 days later animals are bled and the serum assayed for anti-

MKP titer. Animals are boosted until the titer plateaus. Preferably, the animal is boosted with the conjugate of the same MKP polypeptide, but conjugated to a different protein and/or through a different cross-linking agent.

Monoclonal antibodies are prepared by recovering spleen cells from appropriate immunized animals and immortalizing the cells in conventional fashion, e.g. by fusion with myeloma cells or by EB virus transformation and screening for clones expressing the desired antibody.

Quantification of amplified MKP genes in peripheral blood cells of leukemia patients is diagnosed by DNA dot blot hybridization. For this purpose, serial dilutions of denatured genomic DNA purified by standard procedures from blood samples of tested patients are spotted onto nylon filters using appropriate applicators. Purified MKP DNA is being spotted in parallel for calibration. All samples also contain denatured carrier DNA such as salmon sperm DNA to yield a total constant amount of DNA per spot (usually, 2 µg). Filters are incubated for hybridization with P32 MKP DNA or with biotinylated MKP DNA and washed under stringent conditions. Quantities of genomic MKP DNA that hybridize with the labeled probe in each patient are then determined in values equivalent to pg of MKP DNA by optical densitometry of exposed X-ray film (in the case of P32-labeled probe) or of conjugated second fluoroprobe (in the case of biotinylated MKP DNA). In a typical diagnostic test, samples of up to 2 µg of genomic DNA are hybridized for 16 hr. and washed as detailed above.

The principle of this assay is the detection of putative perturbations at the level of the MKP gene and not the protein product. Since molecular changes at the level of genes and chromosomes appear to be linked to the occurrence of congenital syndromes as well as to reflect the severeness of certain diseases, this type of measurement can add novel clinical information.

Example 1

A modification of Iscove's method (in Hematopoietic Cell Differentiation, ICN-UCLA Symposia on Molecular and Cellular Biology, Vol. 10, Golde et al., eds. [New York, Academy Press], pp 37-52) for growing hemopoietic stem cells in methyl cellulose culture was used combined with IMDN (Iscove's modification of Dulbecco's medium) medium. Bone marrow (BM) cells from 8-12 week-old C3H/HeJ (endotoxin-resistant) mice were ejected by syringe and grown in the above medium at a concentration of 10⁵ cells/ml at 5% CO₂ and 37° C.

5% PWM-Sp-CN + 10% WEHI-CM constituted the positive control while 10% WEHI-CM alone was the negative control for all subsequent experiments. In a typical experiment the number of megakaryocytic colonies scored at seven days in the positive control was 60/ml/plate while 30/ml/plate were noted in the negative control.

I.

A novel cDNA sequence was identified in reverse transcripts of fetal ganglioside mRNA by the use of BuChE probes. This consisted of the exact first 249 nucleotides of BuChE cDNA (Prody et al., 1987) followed by the sequence included in figure 1. The connecting site therefore was

... TTT CTT GGA ATT CGC GGC ...
Phe Leu Gly Ile Arg Gly

BuChE cDNA Clone 14 cDNA

Note, however, that it is possible that the ATT triplet was contributed also from BuChE cDNA and is not part of clone 14.

Xenopus oocytes were injected with either clone 14 nonsense mRNA, clone 14 sense mRNA, Butyrylcholinesterase (BuChE) mRNA or Barth medium (the medium used for growing the oocytes). The supernatants were harvested after 20-22 hours, diluted with IMDM to 1:20, filter-sterilized and diluted once more to 1:100 with IMDM. Each of the supernatants was introduced at two concentrations, 1:20 and 1:100, into culture media containing only WEHI-CM. In each case they constituted 5% of the total volume.

Megakaryocytic colonies were scored after seven days of incubation.

Factors Added	Colonies.ml ^a	No. of Megakaryocytic			
		Positive	Negative	Inhibitory	N ^b
1. PWM + WEHI		63±4			17
2. WEHI			28±3		8
3. 14 nonsense,	1:20		54±4		4
"	1:100		36±8		2
4. 14 sense,	1:20	68±1			3
"	1:100	64±9			4
5. BuChE,	1:20			11±5	2
"	1:100			16±4	2
6. Barth,	1:20	91±4			4
"	1:100	67±8			4

a. Results expressed in mean ±SEM.
b. N = No. of plates scored.

From this experiment it was evident that both the 14 sense clone and the Barth medium produced results similar to or superior to the synergistic effect of PWM-SpCM and WEHI-CM while BuChE was distinctly inhibitory of megakaryocytic colony growth. This latter finding is in keeping with the earlier results of Burstein et al. (J. Cell Physiol. 103:201-208 (1980)) which demonstrated that inhibitor to acetylcholinesterase (AChE) stimulated megakaryocytic colony growth. The 14 nonsense clone gave intermediate values which were difficult to interpret. At this point, we could not distinguish between the background effect of the endogenous oocyte secretions in the Barth medium and those induced by the 14 sense clone when injected into the oocytes. It should be noted in this respect that mRNA microinjection reduces the endogenous level of protein secretion from oocytes (H. Soreq, unpublished). It is hence possible that the clone 14 nonsense group is the correct negative control for the 14 sense clone.

II.

In order to determine whether the surrounding cells of the oocytes were producing factors active in potentiating megakaryocytic development the above experiment was repeated using whole oocytes as before and in addition oocytes depleted of surrounding cells by collagenase treatment (collagenase Type I, Sigma). Both types of oocytes were injected with 14 sense clone. The results corroborated those of Experiment I which were repeated here, including the 14 sense and antisense clones, BuChE, and the Barth-injected oocyte CM.

Factors added					Positive Results	N
14	sense,	collagenase-	treated,	1:20	96±18	2
	"	"	"	1:100	38±2	2

The number of megakaryocytic colonies produced from the CM of the collagenase-treated oocytes injected with 14 sense clone were equivalent to those produced from the Barth medium and slightly higher than those formed from the untreated 14 sense clone-oocytes and the PWM + WEHI controls. It was therefore tentatively concluded that the surrounding cells of the oocytes were not contributing any additional growth factors to those produced by the Barth-injected oocytes and/or the 14 sense clone mRNA.

III.

In another attempt to distinguish between the possible effects of native secretions of the oocyte and those of the 14 sense clone, the diluted supernatants of untreated oocytes and Barth-injected oocytes were treated for 3' and 15' at 45°C. The rationale here being that amphibian proteins are far more sensitive to temperatures such as 45°C than are mammalian proteins and would possibly be inactivated. Care was taken to dilute the supernatants before heating so that concentration effects would not mask those due to heating. The results are as tabulated:

Factors Added		No. of Megakaryocytic Colonies/ml	N
1.	PWM + WEHI	63±3	17
2.	WEHI	28±3	8
3.	Untreated Oocyte Secretion		
	1:20, 3' incubation	32±4	2
	1:20, 15' incubation	20±4	4
	1:100, 15' incubation	26±7	4
4.	Barth-treated Oocyte Secretion		
	1:100, 3' incubation	36±4	2
	1:20, 15' incubation	27±5	4
	1:100, 15' incubation	42±8	4

It was concluded from the above experiment that heating oocyte supernatants for even 3' causes a significant reduction in megakaryocyte-potentiating activity. Both Barth-injected and untreated oocyte secretions contain this activity in similar amounts, demonstrating that the native oocyte factor is not a result of the injection itself.

IV.

The effect of CM's from oocytes injected with 14 sense clone or Barth medium before and after collagenase treatment on the stimulation of early multipotential hemopoietic precursors was tested. Cultures containing erythropoietin (EPO) and WEHI-3-CM were used as the basis of comparison for all experimental combinations. This combination of factors is synergistic and is known to produce a fair number of large mixed colonies, i.e., clonal colonies containing several types of hemopoietic cells. In this case, the predominant cell type is erythroid, with smaller numbers of macrophages, granulocytes and megakaryocytes.

Two units of EPO/ml were used in these experiments and the incubation period was for 8-10 days at 5% CO₂ and 37°C.

Factors Added	Mixed Colonies/ml	G-M Colonies/ml	N
EPO + WEHI	19±1	22	2
EPO + 14 sense, 1:20	0	0	2
WEHI + 14 sense, 1:20	0	111	2
EPO + WEHI + 14 sense			
1:20	30±2	n.c.	2
1:100	17±3	n.c.	2
EPO + WEHI + 14 sense collagenase-treated			
1:20	34±3	n.c.	2
EPO + WEHI + Barth			
1:100	37±0.5	n.c.	2

It was concluded from this experiment that CM's from Barth and 14 sense clone contain a hemopoietic growth factor, that in the presence of both EPO and WEHI-CM enhances synergistically the production of mixed colonies containing predominantly cells of the erythroid lineage. The effect was most pronounced at the 1:20 dilution. Here, as in the megakaryocytic experiments, there was no difference between oocytes with or without surrounding cells. Once again, it was not possible to distinguish between the effect of the native oocyte secretion and that induced by the injection of the 14 sense clone. From the few observations made, it would seem that the 14 sense clone also had a pronounced effect on the number of granulocyte-macrophage colonies produced.

V.

Morphological Studies

Cytospin preparations were made of colonies appearing in cultures produced under varying conditions, using a Shandon, Model 2 cytocentrifuge and May-Grunwald-Giemsa stain. Colonies were found to contain a large proportion (up to 80%) of megakaryocytes, both early and mature, and a smaller proportion of granulocytes, macrophages and plasmacytes. Early megakaryocytes, characterized by single, large, lobed or kidney-shaped nuclei, were much more abundant than the mature forms.

Using differential interference contrast, an interesting group of phenomena was observed. At given stages of development of the cultures (at 6-10 days), tremendous amoeboid-like forms were seen to move-flow through the medium, frequently covering the whole field of vision. These free-form megakaryocytes, probably the result of fusion, would within minutes begin to pinch off into two smaller megakaryocytes. At times, one could even observe a simultaneous pinching-off at two separate points, resulting in the formation of three smaller megakaryocytes. Miniature density gradients were formed in the cultures where numerous cell-like forms in the same size range as platelets (0.5 - 1 micron) were found at the bottom of the Petri dishes. At intermediate levels, small and medium-sized megakaryocytes would be concentrated and at the top floated the tremendous free-form megakaryocytes. Frequently, clusters of granulocytes would be attached to the surface of the intermediate-sized megakaryocytes. It is possible that the pinching-off of smaller megakaryocytes from the larger free-forms may be part of the non-mitotic, cytoplasmic maturation of megakaryopoiesis.

Conclusions

1. The synergistic combination of PWM-SpCM WEHI-3-CM and WEHI-3-CM alone can be used as megakaryocyte potentiators in a methyl cellulose-IMDM clonal assay and serve as a basis of comparison of megakaryocytopoietic activity of unknown growth factors. The sources of these growth factors are the supernatants of *Xenopus* oocytes induced by mRNAs of different clones developed from a cDNA library of human newborn brain stem.
2. Substitution of the PWM-SpCM by the various supernatants of the sense clone 14 and the Barth medium used for oocyte growth resulted in a similar synergistic potentiation of CFU-megakaryocyte growth. This left in doubt, however, the source of the synergistic factors.
3. BuChE mRNA, when translated into protein by *Xenopus* oocytes, inhibited the growth of CFU-megakaryocytes, behaving in this fashion inverseley to inhibitors of AChE, a result expected in view of inhibitor studies and the considerable sequence homology between human AChE and BuChE.
4. Oocyte surrounding cells were not responsible for the synergistic activity noted, as their removal by collagenase had, if any, an increased effect on megakaryocytic colony formation.
5. Heating of the supernatants of untreated or Barth-injected oocytes for 3-15" at 45° C caused a significant reduction in megakaryocytic synergistic activity, indicating that at least some of the synergistic activity may have been due to temperature-sensitive amphibian proteins.
6. The same supernatants of the 14 clone and the Barth-injected oocytes proved to have a substantial synergistic action with EPO and WEHI-CM on mixed colony formation and CFU-GM formation. This activity, if found to be associated with the same molecule as that producing the synergistic action of CFU-megakaryocytic colonies, may be suggestive of the multi-CSF nature of the activity. In this context, EPO may have an effect on the development of the CFU-megakaryocytic colonies.
7. On the basis of previous investigations with WEHI-3-CM, it can be assumed that the action of WEHI in the above experiments is caused by the presence of IL-3 in this CM.

Example 2

- The study in this was undertaken to investigate the assumption that clone 14 and the human cholinesterase genes are physically related and do not merely represent an artifactual recombination event, and that altered clone 14 genes (rearranged, amplified or mutagenized in any other way) are involved with the high platelet counts in acute myeloid leukemia patients.
- 17 cases of leukemia were therefore looked at, using butyryl cholinesterase (BuChE) cDNA and clone 14 cDNA as probes. These included 9 cases of AML, 5 cases of AMLM₂ (characterized by bad prognosis and rapid progress), one case of AMOL (acute monocytic leukemia), one case of AMGL (acute megakaryocytic leukemia) and one with the potential diagnosis of polycythemia vera, a semi-malignant syndrome implicated with abnormal erythropoiesis. Minor modifications in the DNA restriction patterns could be observed in several of these, but were difficult to interpret. However, two of the AMLM₂ blood DNA samples displayed considerable amplification as follows:

Sample No.	Amplified DNA Fragments (+ Enzymes)		
	1070(AMLM ₂)	Adr.(= L ₂)(AMLM ₂)	Healthy Control
Labeled cDNA Probe			
Clone 14	3.8 Kb + + (PVU ₂) 2.4 Kb + + (PVU ₂) 1.8 Kb + + (PVU ₂) 3.0 Kb + + + (HindIII) 2.0 Kb + + + (HindIII) 1.8 Kb + + + (HindIII) 4.4 Kb + + + (PVU ₂)	2.0 Kb + + (EcoRI)	+
BuChEcDNA	+ + 3.0 Kb + + + (HindIII)	3.0 Kb + + + (PVU ₂) 2.5 Kb + + + (PVU ₂) 3.0 Kb + + + (EcoRI) 4.2 Kb + (EcoRI) 3.9 Kb + (EcoRI)	- 3.0 Kb + (PVU ₂) 2.5 Kb + (PVU ₂) " " "

In Summary: amplified signals in both existing and non-detected restriction fragments were observed with 3 different enzymes (PVU₂, HindIII and EcoRI) in two different AMLM₂ cases out of 5. Most interestingly, the amplification of clone 14-hybridizable DNA was accompanied by amplification in BuChE positive sequences. The fact that different sizes of the restriction fragments hybridized with the 3' probe excluded the possibility of cross-hybridization. Several of the amplified bands could be observed, with lower intensities, in the presumptive polycythemia vera (Vaguez disease) case, or in one or two of the other AML cases.

The adr. sample represents a patient, currently under remission following chemotherapy treatment, whose serum and erythrocyte ChE were apparently normal in levels and biochemical characteristics. ChE genes and clone 14 are both co-regulated and co-amplified under specific stimulants.

Claims

1. A method for producing a megakaryocytopenin which comprises culturing oocytes and recovering the factor from the culture medium of the oocytes.
2. The factor produced by the method of claim 1.
3. A composition comprising cell-free MKP.
4. A composition comprising human MKP free of human plasma or serum.
5. An isolate of MKP protein.
6. MKP free of polypeptides with which it is ordinarily associated.
7. An MKP variant having the sequence set forth in Fig. 1 wherein a predetermined amino acid is substituted, inserted or deleted, provided, however, that the variant is not an animal analogue of the Fig. 1 polypeptide or a naturally-occurring allele thereof.
8. An isolate of nucleic acid encoding MKP.
9. The isolate of claim 8 which is DNA free of 5' or 3' flanking chromosomal DNA sequences.
10. Nucleic acid having greater than about 10 bp and which is capable of hybridizing with the nucleic acid of claim 8 under stringent conditions.
11. A replicable vector comprising nucleic acid encoding MKP.
12. A host cell transformed with nucleic acid encoding MKP.
13. The host cell of claim 12 which is a mammalian cell.
14. A method for making MKP comprising culturing the host cell of claim 12 and recovering MKP from the culture medium of the host cell.
15. A method for diagnosis of leukemia comprising assaying a leukemia cell for transcription or translation of the MKP gene or for detection of structural changes such as deletions, rearrangements or amplification of such gene.
16. An antibody capable of binding MKP.
17. An MKP derivative labeled with a detectable moiety.
18. The tracer of claim 17 wherein the moiety is a radioisotope or enzyme.

19. A composition suitable for administration to a patient comprising a therapeutically effective amount of MKP and a physiologically acceptable carrier.

20. A composition suitable for administration to a patient comprising a therapeutically effective amount of antibodies to MKP, capable of blocking its physiological activity, and an acceptable carrier.

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10 20 30 40 50 60
 ATTCGCGGCCCTACAGTCGCCGCCGCTCCCCAGCTACAGCCGCCACAGCTCCTACGAG
 IleArgGlyProTyrSerArgArgArgSerProSerTyrSerArgHisSerSerTyrGlu
 PheAlaAlaProThrValAlaAlaAlaProProAlaThrAlaAlaThrAlaProThrSe
 SerArgProLeuGlnSerProProLeuProGlnLeuGlnProProGlnLeuLeuArgA

70 80 90 100 110 120
 CGGGGCGGGCAGCGTCCCTAGTCCCTACAGCAGCAGCTGGCGCCGCTCTCGCAGT
 ArgGlyGlyAspValSerProSerProTyrSerSerSerSerTrpArgArgSerArgSer
 rGlyAlaAlaThrCysProLeuValProThrAlaAlaAlaAlaGlyAlaAlaLeuAlaVa
 laGlyArgArgArgValProEndSerLeuGlnGlnGlnGlnLeuAlaProLeuSerGlnS

130 140 150 160 170 180
 CCCTACAGCCCTGTGCTCAGACGGTCTGGAAAATCCCGAAGCAGAAGCCGTATTCATCT
 ProTyrSerProValLeuArgArgSerGlyLysSerArgSerArgSerProTyrSerSer
 lProThrAlaLeuCysSerAspGlyLeuGluAsnProGluAlaGluAlaArgIleHisLe
 erLeuGlnProCysAlaGlnThrValTrpLysIleProLysGlnLysProValPheIleE

190 200 210 220 230 240
 AGGCATTCAAGATCTCGTAGCAGGCACAGATTGTCTAGATCCAGAAGTCGTCATTCTAGT
 ArgHisSerArgSerArgSerArgHisArgLeuSerArgSerArgSerArgHisSerSer
 uGlyIleGlnAspLeuValAlaGlyThrAspCysLeuAspProGluValValIleLeuVa
 ndAlaPheLysIleSerEndGlnAlaGlnIleValEndIleGlnLysSerSerPheEndT

250 260 270 280 290 300
 ATTTCTCCTAGCACACTAACTCTGAAGAGTAGCCTGBCAGCTGAATTGAACAAGAAATAAA
 IleSerProSerThrLeuThrLeuLysSerSerLeuAlaAlaGluLeuAsnLysAsnLys
 lPheLeuLeuAlaHisEndLeuEndArgValAlaTrpGlnLeuAsnEndThrArgIleLe
 yrPheSerEndHisThrAsnSerGluGluEndProGlySerEndIleGluGlnGluEndL

310 320 330 340 350 360
 AAAGCACGAGCAGCAGAGGCCAGCAAGAGCCGCAGAAAGCAGCGAAAGCTGCAGAAAGCAACT
 LysAlaArgAlaAlaGluAlaAlaArgAlaAlaGluAlaAlaLysAlaAlaGluAlaThr
 eLysHisGluGlnGlnArgGlnGlnGluProGlnLysGlnArgLysLeuGlnLysGlnLe
 ysSerThrSerSerArgGlySerLysSerArgArgSerSerGluSerCysArgSerAsnE

370 380 390 400 410 420
 AAGGCTGCTGAGGCTGCTGCCAAGGCTGCAAAAGCTTCAAACACTTCTACACCTACCAAG
 LysAlaAlaGluAlaAlaAlaLysAlaAlaLysAlaSerAsnThrSerThrProThrLys
 uArgLeuLeuArgLeuLeuProArgLeuGlnLysLeuGlnThrLeuLeuHisLeuProAr
 ndGlyCysEndGlyCysCysGlnGlyCysLysSerPheLysHisPheTyrThrTyrGlnG

430 440 450 460 470 480
 GGGAACACGGAACTAGTGCCAGTGCCATCACAAACAAACCATGTGAAGGATGTGAAGAAA
 GlyAsnThrGluThrSerAlaSerAlaSerGlnThrAsnHisValLysAspValLysLys
 gGlyThrArgLysLeuValProValHisHisLysGlnThrMetEndArgMetEndArgLy
 lGluHisGlyAsnEndCysGlnCysIleThrAsnLysProCysGluGlyCysGluGluA

490 500 510 520 530 540
 ATTAAATTGAACATGCACCTTCTCCCTCAAGTGGTGGAACTTTAAAAAATGACAAAGCA
 IleLysIleGluHisAlaProSerProSerSerGlyGlyThrLeuLysAsnAspLysAla
 sLeuLysLeuAsnMetHisLeuLeuProGlnValValGluLeuEndLysMetThrLysGln
 snEndAsnEndThrCysThrPheSerLeuLysTrpTrpAsnPheLysLysEndGlnSerL

Fig. 1a

clone 14

550 560 570 580 590 600
 AAAACAAAGCCTACCTCTTCAGGTAACGAAGGTGGAAAATAATTTGATTGTAGATAAAG
 LysThrLysAlaTyrLeuPheArgEndArgArgTrpLysIleIleEndLeuEndIleLys
 nLysGlnLysProThrSerSerGlyAsnGluGlyGlyLysEndPheAspCysArgEndSe
 ysAsnLysSerLeuProLeuGlnValThrLysValGluAsnAsnLeuIleValAspLysA

610 620 630 640 650 660
 CCACCAAGAAAGCAGTCATAGTTGGAAAGGAGAGTAAATCTGCTGCTACAAAGGAGGAAT
 ProProArgLysGlnSerEndLeuGluArgArgValAsnLeuLeuLeuGlnArgArgAsn
 rHisGlnGluSerSerHisSerTrpLysGlyGluEndIleCysCysTyrLysGlyGlyIle
 laThrLysLysAlaValIleValGlyLysGluSerLysSerAlaAlaThrLysGluGluS

670 680 690 700 710 720
 CAGTATCTCTTAAAGAGAAACCAAACCACTTACACCAAGCATAGGAGCCAAGGAGAAAGG
 GlnTyrLeuLeuLysArgLysProAsnHisLeuHisGlnAlaEndGluProArgArgArg
 eSerIleSerEndArgGluAsnGlnThrThrTyrThrLysHisArgSerGlnGlyGluGlu
 erValSerLeuLysGluLysThrLysProLeuThrProSerIleGlyAlaLysGluLysG

730 740 750 760 770 780
 AGCAACATGTAGCTTTAGTCACCTCTACATTACCACCGTTACCTTTGCCTCCCATGCTGC
 SerAsnMetEndLeuEndSerProLeuHisTyrHisArgTyrLeuCysLeuProCysCys
 yAlaThrCysSerPheSerHisLeuTyrIleThrThrValThrPheAlaSerHisAlaAla
 luGlnHisValAlaLeuValThrSerThrLeuProProLeuProLeuProProMetLeuP

790 800 810 820 830 840
 CTGAAGATAAAGAAGCTGATAGCTTACGAGGAAATATTTACGTAAAAGCAGTTAAAAAG
 LeuLysIleLysLysLeuIleAlaTyrGluGluIlePheGlnEndLysGlnLeuLysLys
 aEndArgEndArgSerEndEndLeuThrArgLysTyrPheSerLysSerSerEndLysAr
 roGluAspLysGluAlaAspSerLeuArgGlyAsnIleSerValLysAlaValLysLysG

850 860 870 880 890 900
 AAGTAGAAAAGAACTCCGATGTCTTCTTGCTGATTTACCGCTGCCCCCTGAGCTACCG
 LysEndLysArgAsnSerAspValPheLeuLeuIleTyrArgCysProLeuSerTyrGln
 gSerArgLysGluThrProMetSerSerCysEndPheThrAlaAlaProEndAlaThrAr
 luValGluLysLysLeuArgCysLeuLeuAlaAspLeuProLeuProProGluLeuProG

910 920 930 940 950 960
 GAGGAGATGATCTTTCAAAGAGTCCAGAGGAAAGAAAACAACAACACAGTTACATAGTA
 GluGluMetIlePheGlnArgValGlnArgLysArgLysGlnGlnHisSerTyrIleVal
 gArgArgEndSerPheLysGluSerArgGlyLysGluAsnAsnAsnThrValThrEndEn
 lyGlyAspAspLeuSerLysSerProGluGluLysLysThrThrThrGlnLeuHisSerL

970 980 990 1000 1010 1020
 AAAGGAGGCCTAAATATGTGGGCCTCGCTATGGTGAAACAAAGAAAAAGATATTGACTG
 LysGlyGlyLeuLysTyrValGlyLeuAlaMetValLysGlnArgLysArgTyrEndLeu
 dLysGluAlaEndAsnMetTrpAlaSerLeuTrpEndAsnLysGluLysAspIleAspTr
 ysArgArgProLysIleCysGlyProArgTyrGlyGluThrLysLysLysIleLeuThrG

1030 1040 1050 1060 1070 1080
 GGGAAACGCTGCGTGGATAAATTTGATATCATCGGAATTATTGGAGAAGGTACTTACGG
 GlyLysThrLeuArgGlyEndIleEndTyrHisArgAsnTyrTrpArgArgTyrLeuArg
 pGlyLysArgCysValAspLysPheAspIleIleGlyIleIleGlyGluGlyThrTyrGl
 lyGluAsnAlaAlaTrpIleAsnLeuIleSerSerGluLeuLeuGluLysValLeuThrA

Fig 1b.

1090 1100 1110 1120 1130 1140
 ACAAGTTTACAAAGCCAGGGATAAGACACTGGAGAAATGGTAGCCTTAAAAAAGTACGT
 ThrSerLeuGlnSerGlnGlyEndAspThrGlyGluMetValAlaLeuLysLysValArg
 yGlnValTyrLysAlaArgAspLysThrLeuGluLysTrpEndProEndLysLysTyrVal
 spLysPheThrLysProGlyIleArgHisTrpArgAsnGlySerLeuLysLysSerThrS

1150 1160 1170 1180 1190 1200
 CTGGATAATGAAACGGAGGCTTTCCAATTACAGCAATTCGAGAAATTAATAATTCTCCGG
 LeuAspAsnGluThrGluGlyPheProIleThrAlaIleArgGluIleLysIleLeuArg
 lTrpIleMetLysArgLysAlaPheGlnLeuGlnGlnPheGluLysLeuLysPheSerGly
 erGlyEndEndAsnGlyArgLeuSerAsnTyrSerAsnSerArgAsnEndAsnSerProA

1210 1220 1230 1240 1250 1260
 CAGCTTACCCATCAGAGTATTATCAATATGAAGGAAATAGTGAAGTATGATAAAGAAGATTGC
 GlnLeuThrHisGlnSerIleIleAsnMetLysGluIleValThrAspLysGluAspCys
 ySerLeuProIleArgValLeuSerIleEndArgLysEndEndLeuIleLysLysIleAla
 AlaTyrProSerGluTyrTyrGlnTyrGluGlyAsnSerAspEndEndArgArgLeuL

1270 1280 1290 1300 1310 1320
 TTGGATTTCAAGAAGGACAAAGGTGCATCTATCTGTGCTGATATATGGACCATGATTTGA
 LeuAspPheLysLysAspLysGlyAlaSerIleCysAlaAspIleTrpThrMetIleEnd
 aTrpIleSerArgArgThrLysValHisLeuSerValLeuIleTyrGlyProEndPheAs
 euGlyPheGlnGluGlyGlnArgCysIleTyrLeuCysEndTyrMetAspHisAspLeuM

1330 1340 1350 1360 1370 1380
 TGGACTACTGGAATCAGGCTTGGTCATTTTATGAAAATCACATAAAGTCATTTATGAGAC
 TrpThrThrGlyIleArgLeuGlyHisPheMetLysIleThrEndSerHisLeuEndAsp
 pGlyLeuLeuGluSerGlyLeuValIleLeuEndLysSerHisLysValIleTyrGluTh
 etAspTyrTrpAsnGlnAlaTrpSerPheTyrGluAsnHisIleLysSerPheMetArgG

1390 1400 1410 1420 1430 1440
 AGCTCATGGAGGGTCTGGATTATTGTCATAAABAAGTCTTTTGCATAGAGATATTAAAT
 SerSerTrpArgValTrpIleIleValIleArgArgThrPheCysIleGluIleLeuAsn
 rAlaHisGlyGlySerGlyLeuLeuSerEndGluGluLeuPheAlaEndArgTyrEndMe
 lnLeuMetGluGlyLeuAspTyrCysHisLysLysAsnPheLeuHisArgAspIleLysC

1450 1460 1470 1480 1490 1500
 GTTCCAATATCCTTCTAAATAATAGAGGGCAGATAAACTTGCAGACTTTGGACTTGCTC
 ValProIleSerPheEndIleIleGluGlyArgEndAsnLeuGlnThrLeuAspLeuLeu
 tPheGlnTyrProSerLysEndEndArgAlaAspLysThrCysArgLeuTrpThrCysSe
 ysSerAsnIleLeuLeuAsnAsnArgGlyGlnIleLysLeuAlaAspPheGlyLeuAlaA

1510 1520 1530 1540 1550 1560
 GATTGTATAGCTCAGAGAAAGTCGGCCGTATACTAACAGGTAATTACTTTATGGTACC
 AspCysIleAlaGlnLysLysValGlyArgIleLeuThrArgEndLeuLeuTyrGlyThr
 rIleValEndLeuArgArgLysSerAlaValTyrEndGlnGlyAsnTyrPheMetValPr
 rgLeuTyrSerSerGluGluSerArgProTyrThrAsnLysValIleThrLeuTrpTyrA

1570 1580 1590 1600 1610 1620
 GTCCACCTGAAGTCTACTGGGAGAGAAGACGATACACACCAGCCATTGATGTATGGAGCT
 ValHisLeuAsnCysTyrTrpGluLysAsnAspThrHisGlnProLeuMetTyrGlyAla
 aSerThrEndThrAlaThrGlyArgArgThrIleHisThrSerHisEndCysMetGluLeu
 rgProProGluLeuLeuLeuGlyGluGluArgTyrThrProAlaIleAspValTrpSerC

Fig. 1c

1630 1640 1650 1660 1670 1680
 GTGGCTGTATCCTTGCGGA/CTCTTCACTAAAAACCTATATTTCAAGCAAATCAGGAAC
 ValAlaValSerLeuAlaAsnSerSerLeuLysAsnLeuTyrPheLysGlnIleArgAsn
 uTrpLeuTyrProTrpArgThrLeuHisEndLysThrTyrIleSerSerLysSerGlyTh
 ysGlyCysIleLeuGlyGluLeuPheThrLysLysProIlePheGlnAlaAsnGlnGluL

1690 1700 1710 1720 1730 1740
 TTGCACAACCTAGAAATTAATAAGCCGAATATGTGGGAGTCCATGTCCTGCAGTGTGGCCTG
 LeuHisAsnEndAsnEndEndAlaGluTyrValGlyValHisValLeuGlnCysGlyLeu
 rCysThrThrArgIleAsnLysProAsnMetTrpGluSerMetSerCysSerValAlaEn
 euAlaGlnLeuGluLeuIleSerArgIleCysGlySerProCysProAlaValTrpProA

1750 1760 1770 1780 1790 1800
 ATGTAATCAAACTACCATATTTCAACACCATGAAACCAAAGAAGCAATATCGTCGAAAGT
 MetEndSerAsnTyrHisIleSerThrProEndAsnGlnArgSerAsnIleValGluSer
 dCysAsnGlnThrThrIlePheGlnHisHisGluThrLysGluAlaIleSerSerLysVa
 spValIleLysLeuProlyrPheAsnThrMetLysProLysLysGlnTyrArgArgLysL

1810 1820 1830 1840 1850 1860
 TAAGAGAAGAATTGTTTTTATTCCTGCAGCTGCGCTAGACTTATTTGATTACATGCTTGC
 EndGluLysAsnCysPheTyrSerCysSerCysAlaArgLeuIleEndLeuHisAlaCys
 lLysArgArgIleValPheIleProAlaAlaAlaLeuAspLeuPheAspTyrMetLeuAl
 euArgGluGluLeuPheLeuPheLeuGlnLeuArgEndThrTyrLeuIleThrCysLeuP

1870 1880 1890 1900 1910 1920
 CTTGGATCCTAGTAAGCGCTGCACTGCTGAACAGGCTCTTCAGTGCAGTTCCTCCGAGA
 LeuGlySerEndEndAlaLeuHisCysEndThrGlySerSerValArgValProProArg
 aLeuAspProSerLysArgCysThrAlaGluGlnAlaLeuGlnCysGluPheLeuArgAs
 roTrpIleLeuValSerAlaAlaLeuLeuAsnArgLeuPheSerAlaSerSerSerGluM

1930 1940 1950 1960 1970 1980
 TGTGGAACCCCTCAAAAATGCCTCCACCAGATCTCCCTTTATGGCAAGATTGTCATGAGTT
 CysGlyThrLeuLysAsnAlaSerThrArgSerProPheMetAlaArgLeuSerEndVal
 pValGluProSerLysMetProProProAspLeuProLeuTrpGlnAspCysHisGluLe
 etTrpAsnProGlnLysCysLeuHisGlnIleSerLeuTyrGlyLysIleValMetSerT

1990 2000 2010 2020 2030 2040
 ATGGAGTAAAAAGCGAAGAAGACAGAAAGCAGATGGGCATGATGACTGATGTTTCCACAAT
 MetGluEndLysAlaLysLysThrGluAlaAspGlyHisAspAspEndCysPheHisAsn
 uTrpSerLysLysArgArgArgGlnLysGlnMetGlyMetMetThrAspValSerThrIl
 yrGlyValLysSerGluGluAspArgSerArgTrpAlaEndEndLeuMetPheProGlnL

2050 2060 2070 2080 2090 2100
 TAAAGCCCCCAGGAAGGACTTGTCTCTGGGCTTGGATGACAGCAGAACCAACACACCCCA
 EndSerProGlnGluGlyLeuValSerGlyLeuGlyEndGlnGlnAsnGlnHisThrPro
 eLysAlaProArgLysAspLeuSerLeuGlyLeuAspAspSerArgThrAsnThrProGl
 euLysProProGlyArgThrCysLeuTrpAlaTrpMetThrAlaGluProThrHisProA

2110 2120 2130 2140 2150 2160
 GGGTGTGCTGCCATCTTCACAGCTGAATCTCAGGGCACTCAAATGTGGGCACCTGGTGAA
 GlyCysAlaAlaIlePheThrAlaGluIleSerGlyHisSerAsnValAlaProGlyGlu
 nGlyValLeuProSerSerGlnLeuLysSerGlnGlyThrGlnMetTrpHisLeuValLy
 rgValCysCysHisLeuHisSerEndAsnLeuArgAlaLeuLysCysGlyThrTrpEndL

clone 14

2170	2180	2190	2200	2210
AAACAGACAGATCCATCAACACCACAACAGGAGTCTTCGAAACCGTGGAGGAA				
LysGlnThrAspProSerThrProGlnGlnGluSerSerLysProTrpArg				
sAsnArgGlnIleHisGlnHisHisAsnArgSerLeuArgAsnArgGlyGly				
ysThrAspArgSerIleAsnThrThrThrGlyValPheGluThrValGluGlu				

Fig. 1e



DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT					
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. CL.5)		
X,D	PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCE, USA, vol. 84, June 1987, pages 3555-3559, Washington, DC, US; C.A. PRODY et al.: "Isolation and characterization of full-length cDNA clones coding for cholinesterase from fetal human tissues" * Methods *	8-12	C 12 N 15/00 C 12 P 21/02 C 12 N 5/00 C 07 K 15/00 A 61 K 37/24 A 61 K 39/395 C 12 Q 1/68 G 01 N 33/68		
Y,D	IDEM ---	1,2			
X	JOURNAL OF CLINICAL INVESTIGATION, vol. 75, april 1985, pages 1174-1182, The American Society for Clinical Investigation, Inc., New York, US; R. HOFFMAN et al.: "Purification and partial characterization of a megakaryocyte colony-stimulating factor from human plasma" * Abstract *	3-6			
Y	CLINICAL RESEARCH, vol. 31, no. 4, 1983, page 769a, Thorofare, US; N.M. FARBER et al.: "Translation of mRNA from human kidneys into biologically active frythropoietin following microinjection into xenopus laevis oocytes" * Abstract *	1,2	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. CL.5) C 12 N C 12 P		
T	EP-A-0 260 918 (MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY) -----				
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims					
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 14-09-1989	Examiner VAN PUTTEN A.J.		
<table><tr><td>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</td><td>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons ----- & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</td></tr></table>				CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document	T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons ----- & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document	T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons ----- & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document				